

~~SECRET~~

Conference
Report



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Walt W. Rostow
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

SUBJECT: Estimates of Enemy Strength in
South Vietnam

1. During the past three weeks I have made every effort possible to reach community agreement on estimates of enemy strength in South Vietnam. From 10 to 16 April a draft CIA assessment was the subject of a conference with representatives of CIA, DIA, the Department of State, NSA, CINCPAC, and MACV. Since then we have had several discussions of the estimate with General Carroll and with General Wheeler.

2. Despite these measures, the community remains in sharp disagreement. I have personally examined this matter and am convinced that our assessment puts the question of enemy strength in proper perspective and is the best estimate that can be made on the basis of the available information.

3. I have attached to this memorandum a detailed statement of our findings and recommend strongly that they be accepted as the official figures for national planning. In the event you wish to explore this matter in depth, I have also attached the conference report and a statement of the methodologies for our estimate.

Richard Helms
Director

Attachment:



THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

CONCUR:

[Redacted]

MAY 1968

Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence

Date

DD/OER: [Redacted] (2 May 68)

Retyped: DD/OER: [Redacted] (2 May 68)

Distribution:

- Original - Addressee w/copy 1 of attachments
- 1 - Clark Clifford w/copy 2 of attachments
- 1 - Dean Rusk w/copy 3 of attachments
- 1 - Director w/copy 4 of attachments
- 1 - DDCI with/copy 5 of attachments
- 1 - Executive Registry w/o atts
- 1 - DDI w/copy 6 of attachments
- 1 - D/OER w/copy 7 of attachments